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SOURCE Hospodar.

SCORES MECHANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE IN PRAGUE KRAJ;
PREPARE FOR 1950 CROP-PURCHASE PROGRAM

MACHINERY UNEVENLY DISTRIBUTED -- Hospodar, No 22, 1 Jun 50

Thus far, agricultural machinery in Prague Kraj has been unevenly and unfavorably distributed. In rich okreses, such as Brandys nad Labem, there is one tractor for each 75 hectares of agricultural land; in Mlada Boleslav Okres there is one tractor for each 73 hectares, and in Prague-West Okres there is one tractor for each 88 hectares. In poor okreses, such as Pribram, there is only one tractor for each 524 hectares of arable land; in Sedlcany, for each 457 hectares; in Votice, one for each 395 hectares; and in Dobris, one for each 435 hectares. It must be noted that a 28-horsepower tractor can cultivate only 140 hectares of land.

SET UP NEW PREPARATIONS FOR CROP PURCHASE -- Hospodar, No 18, 4 May 50

The preparations for the 1950 crop-purchase program are entirely different from the preparations of former years.

First of all -- and this is one of the basic changes -- the system of a detailed purchase plan centrally worked out from above will be abandoned. The purchase plan will be established within the term limits by the Ministry of Food from below, that is, on the basis of joint proposals of the people's administration and the purchasing components.

The timetable of the purchase plan, which is submitted as a total purchase figure and will be held within the final date of the purchase program, will be worked out by the okreses in accordance with data supplied by the obces and by the kraj in accordance with data supplied by the okreses. The timetable will not be worked out automatically, but in accordance with the progress of the harvest work, which depends on the crop conditions. This means that the term of execution and completion of the purchase program will differ not only in the various kraj but also in the various okreses of a kraj in accordance with local conditions. On a national scale, this difference may amount to 6 or 8 weeks.

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Even in 1949, the plan was so set up that the purchases increased with time. This was the result of the fact that the farmers were accustomed to threshing only after the completion of late work. In 1950, however, the entire weight of the purchase program will be placed at the beginning of the purchase season, so that the largest purchase tasks will be assigned to the period immediately following the harvest. This is connected with the fact that the mechanical equipment has already to a large extent been purchased from the farmers and turned over to the machinery stations, so that, if well organized, the threshing can be largely conducted in the field, especially if the weather is dry. The 1950 grain-purchase program will therefore be dependent on the threshing plan, which is related to the harvesting plans; this is another important change in the preparation for the 1950 purchase program.

The purchasing methods also will be basically changed. Whereas in 1949 the economic cooperatives often carried out few or no acquisitions and waited for the farmer to deliver the products to the cooperative or the collection point, in 1950 steps will be taken toward a purchase program organized in the villages and toward an organized collection of the products purchased. This is effective not only for grains, but also especially for potatoes, oleaginous plants, hay, and vegetables. The purchasing components have been charged, therefore, with the establishment, from among practical farmers, of staffs of instructors and trusted persons who will assist them in the obec to direct the organizational work connected with the mass purchase and mass collection of purchased crops.

The purchase program formerly was carried out during most of the agricultural year, especially in the spring. This applied not only to grains and seeds, but chiefly to potatoes, which the farmers kept through the winter. In this respect, a radical change will be made in 1950, since the purchasing rate will be based on the principle that the purchase program must be completed, with insignificant exceptions, by the end of the calendar year, and that the purchased products also must be taken over by the purchasing components and disposed of, so that they may be used according to need. This is, of course, not fully possible, as the experiences of the past 2 years have shown, if the farmers products keep the products. On one hand, difficulties are encountered in their collection and utilization, (for example, potatoes must not be dug out in the winter; on the other hand, products have spoiled on the farms or have become otherwise unsuitable for public supply.

Therefore, a detailed plan of storage facilities according to kraj and products has been worked out. This plan clearly shows how much storage space is available in each kraj and how much must still be provided. The kraj national committees have been simultaneously charged with the speedy procurement of the necessary space for grains, oleaginous plants, hay, and straw, and with the utilization of abandoned mills, malthouses, breweries, abandoned industrial enterprises, and even, in cases of emergency, such places as halls of inns.

Technical arrangements are being made for the eventuality that the crop may be damp, and the grains may have to be dried, or even that there may be an abundance of overgrown grains or mildewed wheat.

The problem of storage space for potatoes is even more difficult. Previously, potatoes were regularly left over the winter in the farmers' pits. The consumers were supplied in the winter largely from supplies of potatoes purchased in the fall and stored in cellars, so that in the winter only the current market, which existed practically only in the cities and large centers of consumption, was supplied. It is a difficult problem to provide storage space for all products purchased; there are few special potato warehouses in Czechoslovakia, and all the necessary warehouses must, therefore, be provided.

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These tasks, which will be chiefly carried out by the purchasing components, must be accomplished and coordinated by the organs of people's administration, especially by the extraordinary food commissions. The task of these commissions will be to secure politically the basis for the fulfillment of the task; especially, to evaluate the situation regularly, to direct, to coordinate, and occasionally to take the necessary operational measures. Past experiences with the extraordinary food commissions, especially the fact that these people's organizations grow and develop with the tasks assigned to them, guarantee that, with better organization and arrangements which are being carried out, it will be possible to fulfill the purchase of the 1950 harvest as smoothly as it is required and assumed by the material balance of Czechoslovak supply.

AVERAGE COW GIVES 3.4 LITERS OF MILK DAILY -- Hospodar, No 22, 1 Jun 50

The average daily production of milk per cow in Czechoslovakia was 3.4 liters in March 1950. The average daily production of milk per cow on state farms was 6.2 liters (5.9 liters in the Czech Provinces and 7.2 liters in Slovakia). If the average amount of milk consumed by calves is added to the above figures, the average daily production of milk per cow is increased by 0.5 liter.

A total of 2,100,000 hectoliters of milk was produced in March 1950, and of this amount 1,300,000 hectoliters of milk and 1,778 quintals of butter were purchased by the government.

From the milk purchased, 29,884 quintals of grade A sweet butter and 21.79 hectoliters of cream were produced, while a part was distributed to consumers, in the form of equalized or raw milk.

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